

NEWS FROM MRMIB

The **Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board**

For Immediate Release
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Applications Available Now for California's New Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan

Applications are now available for California's Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP), a new state health insurance program that provides coverage to individuals who have been denied health coverage or offered only unaffordable options, officials with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) announced Thursday.

"We are pleased to make the new application available to Californians today so that individuals with health conditions can get the coverage they need," said Cliff Allenby, chairman of the seven-member board.

Since July, more than 5,500 Californians requested applications for the new PCIP program, which is authorized and paid for under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, which was enacted in March. California will receive \$761 million in federal funds to operate PCIP through the end of 2013.

The Board will begin accepting applications immediately and plans to begin covering enrollees in the program by the end of September.

[On April 29, Governor Schwarzenegger announced](#) that California would apply to the federal government to operate the federally funded high risk pool in the state and tasked MRMIB with its implementation and operation. State legislation authorizing the California program became law on June 29. On August 18, the contract with the federal government to operate the PCIP was approved.

PCIP will operate concurrently with the existing state-funded Major Risk Medical Insurance Program (MRMIP), which currently provides coverage to more than 7,000 Californians with preexisting conditions. Federal rules require applicants to the new federal program to have been without health care coverage for six months, meaning that that existing MRMIP subscribers are not eligible for PCIP. Individuals may apply for both programs at the same time to learn which program they qualify for and which may be the better option for them.

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MRMIP

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PCIP

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California Health and Human Services Agency

California Health and Human Services Secretary Kim Belshé, who chairs the Governor's Health Care Reform Implementation Task Force, said Tuesday's announcement marks a milestone.

"We are working hard to ensure federal reform is implemented quickly and responsibly in California, and we can be proud that the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board is ready to open this program just six months after the passage of federal health reform," she said.

Applications and information on the subscriber premiums and benefits are available at the new PCIP website, www.pcip.ca.gov or at www.mrmib.ca.gov. Individuals may also obtain information by calling 1-877-428-5060 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Officials with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance program expect to serve up to 25,000 subscribers monthly in the PCIP.

MRMIB also operates the Healthy Families Program, Access for Infants and Mothers program and MRMIP.

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